

Native Language Supports

Bilingual dictionary

Support Description

Students can use bilingual (paper or electronic) dictionaries to clearly define words that they do not know. This support allows students to reference their native language so that they can make connections between their native language and their second language. It is important to note that not all students can read their native language; make sure that they can read in their native language before providing this support.

Native language explanations

Support Description

Teachers, aides, peers, [technology](#), and text can provide ELLs with native language explanations of terms and concepts. This will assist students as they try to understand ideas in their new language that they may not be able to comprehend without connecting those ideas to their native language.

Native language discussion

Support Description

Teachers, aides, and peers can work with ELLs during native language discussions. This allows students time to use their native language as well as ask clarifying questions. It also builds self efficacy in that it allows them to show their ability to grasp concepts without the constraints of the language they are learning.

Native language texts

Support Description

Native language texts are complete passages or books that mirror the main ideas that are being presented in the classroom text. These are great resources for beginners who can read in their native language.